

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0059] with the following amended paragraph:

[0059] Furthermore, as shown in Fig. 6A, when the difference between the powder layer 10 and the higher density layer 11H is measured, according to a measuring result, the next step can be selected from the following steps: a) a lower density layer 11L is formed after formation of the additional higher density layer 11H' or b) a lower density layer 11L is formed directly on the higher density layer 11L without the additional layer 11H'. In case of larger difference δa , as shown in Fig. 6B, a layer of powder material is formed without sinking of the stage 20 and the layer of powder material is sintered to a higher density layer 11H' to make the difference smaller. In case of smaller difference δa , the stage 20 is lowered, the powder material is supplied and the lower density layer 11L is formed.

Please replace paragraph [0060] with the following amended paragraph:

[0060] As shown in Fig. 7, the difference δa can be measured by a driving load F of the blade 21 which is used for equalizing the powder material. In case of a smaller load F equal to a large difference shown in Fig. 7A, a next powder material is formed without sinking amount of the stage 20. In case of a larger load F equal to a small difference shown in Fig. 7B, a next powder material is formed with some sinking amount of the stage 20.